

Message Text

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12

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5786

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INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 6582

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KS, KN, JO

SUBJECT: JORDAN AND KOREA AT 30TH UNGA

REF: A. STATE 225930 B. STATE 229633

1. AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED WITH PRIME MINISTER RIFAI JORDANIAN POSTURE ON CONSIDERATION OF KOREA AT 30TH UNGA. I MADE CLEAR PER REFTELS THAT THIS IS MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE FOR US AT THIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND WE ATTACH SIGNIFICANT IMPORTANCE TO IT ALSO IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR CONTINUING BILATERAL RELATIONS.

2. WE EMPHASIZED THAT WE WANT JORDAN TO MOVE FROM ABSTENTION ON NORTH KOREAN RESOLUTION TO OPPOSITION WHILE RETAINING ITS SUPPORT FOR FRIENDLY RESOLUTION. THEN DISCUSSED IN SOME DETAIL TALKING POINTS AS PROVIDED IN REFTEL A.

2. RIFAI REPLIED THAT JORDAN WOULD SUPPORT THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION, BUT HAD DECIDED IT WOULD ABSTAIN AGAIN THIS YEAR ON HOSTILE RESOLUTION. ITS DECISION TO ABSTAIN WAS BASED ON A FEELING THAT ALL THE OTHER ARAB STATES WOULD DO SO AND THAT IT COULD NOT ON THIS ISSUE STAND AGAINST THE
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FULL ARAB TIDE.

3. AS WE DISCUSSED THE QUESTION FURTHER, AND I MADE CLEAR TO RIFAI THE IMPORTANCE WHICH WE ATTACH TO JORDANIAN OPPOSITION TO THE NORTH KOREAN RESOLUTION, HE SAID THAT HE WOULD BE PREPARED IN ADDITION TO DO TWO OTHER THINGS: (A) TO INSTRUCT HIS PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE IN NEW YORK, WHO ALREADY HAD INSTRUCTIONS WHICH WOULD ALLOW HIM FREEDOM TO OPPOSE PORTIONS OF THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION IN A PARAGRAPH BY PARAGRAPH VOTE, TO DO SO ON SPECIFIC ITEMS -- HE PARTICULARLY STRESSED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO OPPOSE THAT PORTION OF THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD EXCLUDE SOUTH KOREA FROM PARTICIPATION IN A CONFERENCE. I URGED HIM TO CONSIDER OPPOSITION TO REQUEST FOR REMOVAL OF US TROOPS BECAUSE IT IS A BILATERAL AND US-ROK MATTER. HE ALSO AGREED (B) TO CONSIDER MOVING AWAY FROM THE ARAB BLOC IF HE COULD BE ASSURED OF SOME COMPANY. HE PUT GREAT STRESS ON POINT IT WOULD BE EASIER IF HE COULD FOLLOW WHAT-EVER EGYPTIANS ARE DOING (CONTRARY TO THE RECENT JORDANIAN EMPHASIS ON RAPPROCHEMENT WITH SYRIA) AND SAID ALSO THAT IF EGYPT COULD BE PERSUADED TO OPPOSE AND SAUDI ARABIA WOULD JOIN, HE WOULD CONSIDER FAVORABLY INSTRUCTING THEIR DELEGATE ALSO TO OPPOSE. HE WOULD EVEN BE PREPARED TO BREAK RANKS WITH SYRIA IF EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA ARE OPPOSING HOSTILE RESOLUTION. HOWEVER, HE SAID IF ONLY STATES SUCH AS OMAN, QATAR AND BAHRAIN COULD BE PERSUADED TO LEAVE THE ARAB FOLD, IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO DO SO, PARTICULARLY IF EGYPT, SYRIA AND SAUDI ARABIA WERE UNITED ON THEIR POSITION OF EITHER ABSTAINING OR SUPPORTING THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION.

4. GIVEN RIFAI'S WILLINGNESS, ALBEIT VERY RELUCTANTLY, TO RECONSIDER HIS POINT OF VIEW ON THIS ISSUE, I WOULD LIKE TO BE PROVIDED WITH BEST ASSESSMENT OF WHAT POSITIONS OTHER ARABS WILL TAKE, BUT MOST SIGNIFICANTLY WHAT THE EGYPTIANS WILL DO AS A BASIS FOR ANOTHER EFFORT WITH HIM. WOULD ALSO SUGGEST THAT USUN BE IN TOUCH WITH ABDUL HAMID SHARAF, JORDANIAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, AND EXAMINE WITH HIM THE QUESTION OF ARAB ATTITUDES. WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO ANY INDICATION TO HIM THAT WE ARE MAKING A MAJOR EFFORT WITH THE PRIME MINISTER TO GET HIS INSTRUCTIONS ON ABSTENTION REVIEWED IF YOU FEEL IT

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WOULD HELP IN INFLUENCING HIS ATTITUDE ON OTHER ISSUES, SUCH AS PARAGRAPH BY PARAGRAPH VOTE ON THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION ON WHICH HE CURRENTLY HAS SOME FREEDOM. PICKERING

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